

State Department review  
completed

DRAFT OF STATEMENT

It is regrettable that the United States Government is forced to suspend publication of Amerika, its official Russian-language magazine which had such great popular appeal when it was freely available in Russia.

*I was constantly aware of*  
~~I personally recall~~ the great popularity of Amerika during

my tour of duty as American Ambassador to the USSR. ~~In fact,~~

*It was* during my tenure <sup>that</sup> the agreement between the Soviet and American Governments concerning the number of issues of Amerika to be distributed in Russia was increased from 10,000 issues to 50,000.

This increase was necessary because ~~it was found that~~ the demand *for the*

*magazine* far exceeded the supply. Consequently, I consider as ~~unrealistic~~ *fantastic*

the Soviet Government's claims that Amerika's circulation has dropped suddenly from 50,000 to 25,000 and then to a record low of 13,000 issues.

*Unfortunately* The tactics which the Soviet Government has taken in slowly strangling the circulation of Amerika have left this Government with no other alternative course but to suspend publication until such a time as free distribution of the magazine is assured.

*was informed reliably*  
Actually, *that* single pages of this highly prized publication were at times sold in the Soviet black market for more than the official cost of the entire magazine, *and if its circulation has so declined it is*  
7/11/52 *because the Soviet Government's strict controls this circulation, has forced it down.*

S E C R E T

**SECRET**

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ER-3-0877

JUL 17 1952

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It is regrettable that the United States Government is forced to suspend publication of Amerika, its official Russian-language magazine which had such great popular appeal when it was freely available in Russia.

During my tour of duty as American Ambassador to the USSR, I was constantly aware of the great popularity of Amerika. It was during my tenure that the agreement between the Soviet and American Governments concerning the number of issues of Amerika to be distributed in Russia was increased from 10,000 issues to 50,000. This increase was necessary because the demand for the magazine far exceeded the supply. Consequently, I consider as fantastic the Soviet Government's claims that Amerika's circulation has dropped suddenly from 50,000 to 25,000 and then to a record low of 13,000 issues. Actually I was informed reliably that single pages of this highly prized publication were at times sold in the Soviet black market for more than the official cost of the entire magazine, and if its circulation has so declined it is because the Soviet Government, which controls this circulation, has forced it down.

Unfortunately, the tactics which the Soviet Government has taken in slowly strangling the circulation of Amerika have left this Government with no other alternative course but to suspend publication until such a time as free distribution of the magazine is assured.

Sincerely,

SIGNED:

Walter B. Smith  
Director

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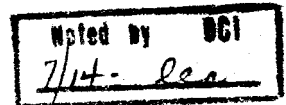
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**SECRET**

S E C R E T



July 11, 1952

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Frank G. Wisner

FROM: Jesse M. MacKnight *Jm*

SUBJECT: Proposal for Statement on Suspension of  
Amerika Magazine by General Walter Bedell Smith

The Department of State will shortly announce suspension of the magazine Amerika; at the same time the Department will announce retaliatory measures against publication and distribution of Russian magazines and pamphlets by the Soviet Embassy in this country.

Anticipating reaction to this decision in the Soviet press, the Department is preparing a propaganda offensive by obtaining statements in support of our action from prominent Americans, who have been associated, in some way, with the enterprise; or who have advocated a free exchange of information between the peoples of Russia and the United States.

If agreeable with General Smith, we would like a statement along the line of the attached. Admiral Kirk has described the decline of the magazine in a similar statement, based upon his observations during his tour of duty in Moscow. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Warren Austin and members of Congress are also making statements.

Attachment:  
Draft of Statement.

*This is a somewhat stronger  
statement - However if State  
prefers the original I am quite  
agreeable*

S E C R E T